



# CANINE UNIT

FC No.: 741  
Date: 06-16-05

If a provision of a regulation, departmental directive, rule or procedure conflicts with a provision of the contract, the contract prevails except where the contract provision conflicts with state law or the Police Collective Bargaining Law. (FOP Contract, Article 16)

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### I. Policy

The Canine **Unit** provides specialized assistance to operational units in the field through the use of highly trained canines. Officers should be familiar with canine functions so they are able to make informed decisions as to when canine can be useful and should be summoned.

### II. General Information (CALEA 41.1.4.a)

- A. Canines may be utilized for, but are not limited to, the following:
  - 1. Tracking suspects or lost persons
  - 2. Searching buildings, fields, and wooded areas for suspects
  - 3. Searching crime scenes for evidence
  - 4. Apprehending fleeing suspects
  - 5. Searching for hidden narcotics
  - 6. Part of stakeout teams when the possibility of the need for a canine may arise
  - 7. High-risk arrest situations
  - 8. Assisting field officers in incidents involving searches for explosive devices
- B. Canines are particularly effective in incidents of burglary where the suspect is believed to be still inside the building or has just fled. Searches by canines are considerably safer,

quicker, and more thorough than those conducted by officers. (CALEA 41.1.4.b)

- C. The Canine **Unit** also **assists** patrol units with **alarm calls at** commercial establishments and as a backup **team**.

### III. Explosives Detection Canines (CALEA 41.1.4.c, 46.1.5)

- A. Three explosives detection canines are available to assist field officers in certain incidents involving explosives searches.
- B. ***Explosive detection canines exert a great deal of energy when conducting searches. Conditions such as temperature, environment, and the size of the search area influence their effectiveness. The handler will determine when a canine should rest and when the search by the team should be discontinued.***
- C. The following are typical incidents where the explosives detection canine could be utilized:
  - 1. Searching the scene of a detonated device
  - 2. Bomb threats to facilities that are likely to be targets for bombings, such as:
    - a. Abortion clinics
    - b. Government installations
    - c. Defense contractors
  - 3. Bomb threats in which the on-scene supervisor believes an explosives detection canine would be warranted
- D. It is not recommended to request the explosives detection canine for large open fields or those areas where a search by officers can be readily accomplished.

### IV. Narcotics Detection Canines (CALEA 41.1.4.a, 41.1.4.c)

- A. Narcotics detection canines are available to assist officers with searches of buildings, vehicles, and open areas for **CDS**. A narcotics detection canine will not be used to search an individual for **CDS**.

B. Officers requesting a narcotics detection canine should secure the location/vehicle to be searched and should refrain from searching prior to the arrival of the canine team to avoid contamination.

C. ***When a vehicle is to be searched, officers should turn off the engine and close the windows of the vehicle.***

V. **Bloodhound Teams** (CALEA 41.1.4.c)

A. The bloodhound is trained solely for the trailing of humans and is gentle in nature and non-aggressive. The bloodhound possesses keen scent discrimination abilities which are ***less likely to be*** hampered by inclement weather, distractions from other scents, or search delays of many hours or days.

B. The department has two bloodhound teams to assist officers in searches for missing persons and suspects wanted for serious crimes. A team may be requested via ECC after officers have consulted with ***on-duty*** Canine ***Unit*** personnel to determine the need for a bloodhound team. In the absence of a Canine ***Unit*** officer, an on-scene supervisor may call out a bloodhound team; however, ***on-duty*** Canine ***Unit*** personnel will continue to be the primary first responders when ***canine***-assisted searches are requested.

C. When the bloodhound team is requested, the on-scene supervisor will:

1. In missing person cases, ensure a complete search of the immediate area is conducted, starting from where the person was last seen.
2. Ensure that the location where the subject of the search was last observed is secured and protected from contamination.
3. Ensure running vehicles are moved away from the immediate search area since exhaust fumes adversely affect the bloodhound's scenting abilities.

D. Scent Article

Upon arrival of the bloodhound team, the handler will locate a scent article. Common scent articles include clothing, car seats, steering wheels, doorknobs, footprints, etc. Scent articles will be protected from contamination and will not be touched or disturbed.

E. Accompanying Officer

If the search is for a missing person, the bloodhound handler may request that a patrol officer accompany the handler to assist with radio communications. If the search is for a wanted person, a ***second*** canine ***handler*** will accompany the bloodhound handler.

VI. **Procedures for Utilizing Canine Assistance** (CALEA 41.1.4.b)

A. All canine teams are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, as manpower availability allows. Every attempt will be made to have canine coverage in each police district, with the greatest concentration of canine teams working between 2000 and 0200 hours.

B. Officers may request a canine ***team***, through ECC, to the scene of any incident where, in their opinion, a canine ***team*** can be useful.

C. Once a canine ***team*** has been requested, the senior ranking officer on the scene should direct officers to establish a perimeter to prevent the suspect from ***escaping***. Officers should not enter a building or open area once the canine ***team*** is enroute. Canines track by finding and following ground scent ***disturbance***. If the crime scene is walked over, the dog may not be able to pick up the desired scent. Every effort should be made to preserve the area that a suspect was last seen fleeing from, so the track may be started at that point.

D. When the canine officer arrives on the scene, the canine officer will be briefed on the following:

1. The type of crime
2. Whether or not criminal charges will be placed; officers must advise the canine officer if the suspect is wanted only for investigation
3. The number of officers on the scene
4. The deployment of the officers
5. Other persons, if any, known to be in the building or area

E. Deployment of officers on the scene will be coordinated between the canine officer and the senior ranking officer. Officers should be advised when the canine unit enters the search area. The senior ranking officer on the scene will ensure no officer or citizen enters the search area once the canine search has started

unless specifically requested by the canine officer. At least one patrol unit will remain on the scene of the incident until the canine activity is completed.

- F. The canine officer has the ultimate responsibility for the safety of the team. If, in the officer's opinion, the request falls outside the scope of the team's capacity or places them in an unacceptable degree of danger, the canine officer will not deploy the officer's canine.**

**G. Arrests and Reports**

In the event of an apprehension by the canine **team**, patrol officers will be responsible for transporting and processing arrestees and completing subsequent written reports (except Dog Bite Reports and Use of Force Reports). ***This not only includes apprehensions as the result of a canine deployment but also includes any apprehension made by a canine officer (e.g., DWI, 10-60 subject, etc.).***

- H.** If all canine **teams** are out of service when an officer requests their assistance, the senior ranking officer will decide whether to wait for canine's arrival or begin the search without a canine unit. Factors such as the reduced time delay because of the number of available teams, officer safety, likelihood of suspect(s) hiding inside, type and size of the building or area, number of officers on the scene, etc., should be considered.
- I.** When officers on the scene of any incident are unsure if the canine can be helpful, they should request their assistance and allow the canine officer to make the decision.

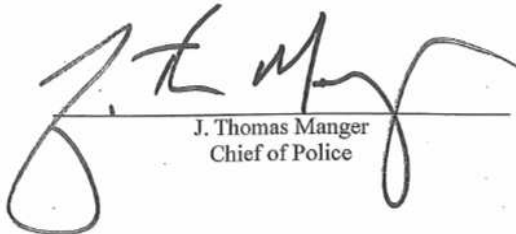
**J. Call-Out Procedures for Canine Units**

The senior ranking officer at the scene of an incident shall have the authority to call out an off-duty canine officer if, in the officer's opinion, the dog can be useful. Call-out should be considered in cases involving murder, kidnapping, rape, burglary, robbery, or lost or missing persons. Consideration should be given to location, time delay, weather, and the amount of foot traffic.

**VII. Proponent Unit: Canine *Unit***

**VIII. Cancellation**

***This directive cancels Function Code 741, effective date 07-28-99.***



J. Thomas Manger  
Chief of Police